

My name is Kebrhea Cuellar. I live and work in Springfield where I've owned a home in the Thurston Hills for over a decade. I have been a Lane County resident for 20 years, I am a UofO alum and was raised in Oregon.

I'm here today to urge this board to join Multnomah and Benton counties in withdrawing involvement and financial support of the Association of O&C Counties, or the AOCC.

Like many Oregonians, I love our state. I grew up skiing, swimming, hiking, fishing and camping all over our state. As an adult, I spend much of my free time outdoors and feel an obligation to protect our natural resources.

I value our public lands. Though much of it has been degraded by logging, of what's left, I value the protection of our watersheds, the habitat provided for our native wildlife, the ability of our forests to store carbon, the educational opportunities provided Oregonians young and old, as well as the endless recreational opportunities.

I want our public lands to be managed for the public, with the above values in mind. Not their timber potential. When we value our public lands for their timber potential, we lose all of those values I just mentioned, plus more.

Like many Oregonians, I am sick and tired of seeing our public lands degraded in the name of timber, valued by our elected officials only for their profit potential.

Like a lot of Oregonians, I pay my taxes. And, I do not support this county using our hard-earned tax dollars to support this radical timber lobbying organization. An organization that has lobbied to roll back environmental protections and dramatically increase logging levels on public lands.

We should not be supporting an organization that has sued the federal government to overturn protections of our Cascade- Siskiyou National Monument, the only national monument set aside specifically for its biodiversity.

Like a lot of Oregonians, I've seen the boom and bust of the timber industry. I've seen the negative impact of our aggressive logging practices on water, air, wildlife and communities. I am witnessing the devastating effects of climate change, of which our aggressive logging practices are a contributor.

As a Lane County resident and tax payor, I do not support the AOCC.

I am asking this board to not appoint a commissioner to represent Lane County at the AOCC and withdraw from the AOCC by no longer paying membership dues or funding anti-environmental, anti-public lands agenda with taxpayer dollars.

Thank you.



Kebrhea Cuellar

Commissioners,

15 January 2019

Lane County should follow the example of Benton and Multnomah counties by cancelling its membership in the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). The AOC supports a variety of efforts to roll back environmental laws and dramatically increase logging in Oregon's public forests.

Currently, everywhere we look in our hills and other forest lands, vast clearcuts scar the land and negatively impact watersheds and wildlife habitat. Alarming, these clearcuts substantially contribute to the complex and accelerating aspects of climate change. As the planet continues to warm at an unprecedented pace, we will see significant negative impacts to Oregon's economy, communities, ecosystems, and our way of life. It's incumbent upon us to renew the health and vitality of our forests.

Recent research, including a groundbreaking study from Oregon State University, shows that Oregon's logging industry emits more carbon into our atmosphere than any other sector. While Oregon forests absorb a lot of carbon, a team of OSU researchers found that the wood products industry is the largest sector contributing to carbon pollution in the state. The wood products sector generated about one and a half times more emissions than the transportation or energy sector emissions reported by the Oregon Global Warming Commission. Wood product emissions are the result of fuel burned by logging equipment, the hauling of timber, milling, wood burned during forestry activities, and the ongoing decomposition of trees after they are cut.

As a timber industry front group, the AOC testifies before Congress and endorses logging bills that continue to degrade Pacific Northwest forests contrary to the desire of a majority of Oregonians who want expanded protections for public lands. Again, I urge you to cancel Lane County's membership in the Association of Oregon Counties.

Thank you,

Nena Lovinger
40093 Little Fall Creek Rd
Fall Creek, OR 97438

*East Lane
District*

The Natural Resources Policy Steering Committee of the AOC influences policies that negatively impact water, public lands and natural resources.

Dear County Commissioners,
I stand before you today
happy and excited and willing to say.

WE the people, we voted
to change your "make up".

Now we want to tell you to
make good
on this "shake up".

See, time is getting short
stuff is hitting the fan
We elected you to come up with some plans.

Our neighbors unhoused with needs unmet
give em a roof and space that, includes their beloved pet.

Only 12 years
before climate collapse begins
Civilizations survival
may be on the hinge

We need a *County Climate Action Plan*
to cut greenhouse gas emissions, as fast as we can.

Cancer causing chemicals sprayed overhead
My mom and my sister, from cancer, both dead

Forestry Industry sprays 2- 4D and atrazine
You all KNOW- aerial spraying is really obscene

Lincoln county passed their ballot measure and for TWO years been spray free
it hasn't destroyed their economy

We are species who has fouled our nest
pollution, toxins, clear cuts, fossil fuels, plastics/ all the rest

I know you all got lots of issues on your plates
Land use and budgets and unhoused peoples fates

But this Climate Crisis
It's a MUCH bigger threat than Isis.

All these other issues
gonna be so much worse
what are we leavin to our children?
It's a travesty, it's a curse

Debra McBee
Commissioner, Buch's District

Momma always
said *no matter how far down you gone*
the wrong path
you can always turn around

what **do** you folks want to be remembered for?
Please fulfill the will of the people/please don't ignore

Our expectations are great
we got your back
go boldly forward
we'll help fight off attacks

Call on us here, WE who got you elected
Together in Lane County
we will ALL be better protected

ATTACKS ON PUBLIC LANDS BY THE AOCC

The *Association of O&C Counties (AOCC)* claims to represent 16 county governments in western Oregon that have historically received money from logging publicly-owned forests on O&C lands; however, in recent years, the AOCC has become increasingly aligned with the timber industry, as demonstrated by their various lobbying and litigation efforts to open protected public lands to commercial logging.

The AOCC is pursuing strategies on all three levels of government to log the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and ramp it up on over 2 million acres of public forest land:

1. COURTS

In February of 2017, the AOCC filed a lawsuit against the federal government to overturn protections for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

- **The lawsuit seeks to log federally protected forests** and undo Pres. Obama's chief conservation achievement in Oregon

2. CONGRESS

The AOCC has testified and lobbied in favor of various logging bills that would dramatically alter forest management in the Pacific Northwest. This includes the Resilient Federal Forests Act (HR 2936), which passed the House in November 2017. If the version of the bill that the AOCC supported became law, HR 2936 would have:

- **shrink the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument** and require that these public forests and other protected lands be managed for the sole purpose of timber production.
- **mandate that O&C lands produce a bare minimum of a half billion board feet per year**, which is triple the current logging levels in these forests. This goal cannot be met without logging old-growth forests on O&C land.
- **exempt logging projects up to 45 square miles in size from environmental analysis and citizen oversight** in an effort to streamline logging projects on public lands. For context, that's the size of Eugene city limits!

3. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

In April of 2017, the Trump administration began reviewing National Monuments throughout the country to see which could be shrunk or eliminated altogether.

- **AOCC representatives lobbied Trump's then Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, to shrink the Monument** when he toured the Cascade-Siskiyou in July of 2017
- A few months later, Sec. Zinke recommended that Pres. Trump shrink four Monuments, including the Cascade-Siskiyou. Trump has already acted on two recommendations, shrinking the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments by 85% and 45% respectively.

MORE INFO ON THE AOCC AND LANE COUNTY:

- There are ~374,000 acres of O&C land within Lane County. For context, only Douglas and Jackson Counties have more O&C acreage.
- Lane County contributed \$107,000 of taxpayer money to fund the AOCC in FY2018, with over a quarter of those funds going directly to anti-public lands, pro-logging litigation.
- The list of AOCC's anti-conservation actions extends well beyond its efforts to log the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.
 - The AOCC is currently suing the BLM over its management of O&C lands, arguing that logging levels should be much higher than current levels.
- Two Oregon counties have already left the AOCC, Benton County, and more recently Multnomah County.
- There are about 2.6 million acres of O&C land in Western Oregon, mostly managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Historically, counties with O&C lands received a cut of the revenue from unsustainably-high levels of logging on these public lands. Secure Rural Schools legislation has provided payments to counties de-coupled from logging for the past 16 years. Departing the AOCC would have no impact on the funds Lane County receives.

MORE INFO ON THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT:

- Originally designated by President Clinton in 2000 and expanded by President Obama in 2017, the Cascade-Siskiyou is the first and only National Monument specifically established to protect biological diversity.
- In addition to hosting an exceptional range of flora and fauna, the Monument is an important Pacific Northwest biological connectivity corridor which enables species to move back and forth between neighboring ecoregions.
- The Cascade-Siskiyou provides extraordinary recreational opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, and backcountry skiing, which in turn helps support Southern Oregon's growing recreation-based economy. The Cascade-Siskiyou is also home to 19 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.



Association of O&C Counties litigation (not including appeals of any of these cases)

D.C. District Court

1:94-cv-01031-JR NW FOREST RESOURCE, et al v. SHEA, et al

James Robertson, presiding

Date filed: 05/11/1994

Date terminated: 09/19/2001

Date of last filing: 07/16/2009

[Challenge to the Northwest Forest Plan, settlement agreement part of lead-up to BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision]

1:94-cv-01044-TPJ ASSOC/O & C COUNTIES, et al v. BABBITT, et al

Thomas Penfield Jackson, presiding

Date filed: 05/12/1994

Date terminated: 05/23/1996

Date of last filing: 02/11/1999

[Northwest Forest Plan challenge]

1:16-cv-01602-RJL ASSOCIATION OF O & C COUNTIES v. STEED et al

Richard J. Leon, presiding

Date filed: 08/05/2016

Date of last filing: 06/18/2018

[Challenge to the BLM's Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon]

1:17-cv-00280-RJL ASSOCIATION OF O&C COUNTIES v. TRUMP et al

Richard J. Leon, presiding

Date filed: 02/13/2017

Date of last filing: 10/02/2018

[Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument challenge]

Oregon District Court

6:01-cv-06378-AA Douglas Timber Operations, Inc et al v. Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture

Ann L. Aiken, presiding

Date filed: 12/26/2001

Date terminated: 04/01/2004

Date of last filing: 04/01/2004

[Northwest Forest Plan challenge]

Association of O & C Counties was also an intervenor-defendant in 4 cases:

K-S Wild v. BLM, No. 97-03047-CO (filed 07/11/97, closed 11/23/99)

Portland Audubon v. Lujan, No. 87-01160-FR (filed 10/19/87, closed 01/05/94)

NWF v. Forest Service, No. 88-00752-RE (filed 07/08/88, closed 07/22/88)

Headwaters v. BLM, No. 89-06016-HO (filed 01/13/89, closed 10/12/89)



January 14, 2019

Chair Sorenson, Vice-Chair Buch and members of the Commission:

My name is Josh Laughlin. I'm the executive Director of Eugene-based Cascadia Wildlands, and I'm here today representing our 10,000 members and supporters in the region, many based here in Lane County. Much of our conservation work is focused on federal forest and watershed management here in western Oregon, and that is why I'm here today.

I urge you to begin the process of removing Lane County's membership in the Association of O&C Counties, and this begins by not appointing a representative to this anti-environmental body. Shockingly, Lane County expends tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars each year in membership dues and litigation fees. This organization has been at the forefront of extreme-anti-environmental policy for years, most recently legally challenging the Bureau of Land Management's new forest plan, which ramps up logging by 37% and emphasizes clearcut forestry practices in western Oregon. The AOCC believes this 37% boost isn't enough.

What the ramp-up means on the ground is that places like Shotgun Creek and the Thurston Hills are now being slated for clearcutting. These are some of the closest federal public forests to the Eugene/Springfield area that Lane County residents regularly use for recreation, not to mention for their fish and wildlife habitat and for their ability to store vast amounts of carbon.

The Association of O&C Counties was also a plaintiff in a recent federal lawsuit trying to reverse protections for the popular Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southern Oregon, suggesting that these biologically diverse lands should instead be utilized for logging.

I bet if you queried Lane County residents, you'd find that the vast majority wouldn't approve of Lane County giving nearly \$100,000 of public money to a Big Timber lobby group last year. I bet you'd have a lot more support for Parks improvements and expansion. County residents live, work and are moving here in droves because of Lane County's quality of life, not for its clearcuts.

It is long-overdue that Lane County removes its membership from the Association of O&C Counties. Thank you.

Josh Laughlin
Executive Director

Hi my name is Mark Cosby and I'm from Marcola, East Lane district. I come to you today to speak about an important issue facing the county. The impact of illegal immigration on our economy and our services. As our president stated last week "all Americans are hurt by uncontrolled illegal migration. It strains public resources and drives down jobs and wages. Among those hardest hit are African-Americans and Hispanic Americans."

"At the federal, state, and local levels, taxpayers shell out approximately \$134.9 billion to cover the costs incurred by the presence of more than 12.5 million illegal aliens, and about 4.2 million citizen children of illegal aliens." which is reported by Federation for American Immigration Reform. We are currently in a national crisis.

So I ask you, our county commissioners what is Lane County going to do about this crisis. Are we going to take action or ignore it?